

REMARKS

Claims 34, 35, 37 and 38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,838,946 to Schall ("Schall"). For Schall to anticipate Claims 34, 35, 37 and 38, the reference must show each limitation of the claims.

Schall is a double acting air-pressure actuated diaphragm pump (Abstract). A flanged connecting member (12) interconnects a pair of pump bodies (10 and 11). A rod passes through the flanged connecting member *which is sealed at each end by seals 39a and 38a*. Each pump body is formed of an inner and an outer housing section formed of two hemispherical parts. Between the paired hemispherical parts is sandwiched a diaphragm dividing each pump body into a pumping chamber and a pump actuating chamber. So, according to Schall, there are two pump bodies, each having an actuating chamber and a pumping chamber. The pump bodies are sealed from each other so the air actuated pumps do not interfere with each other during operation. The valves and other pump mechanisms, like valves are also exterior to any of the pump chambers. For the pump of Schall to operate properly the two pump actuating chambers must be sealed and separate from each other.

Claim 32 has been amended to clarify the invention. The present invention, as set forth in the claims includes a two-piece housing. The two-piece housing consists of a first housing half connected to a second housing half. A first flexible diaphragm is formed integral with the first housing half and a second flexible diaphragm is formed integral with the second housing half. The first and second housing half defines a single interior space with the first and second diaphragm. The single interior space contains pump mechanism components. A noise and vibration reducing material is formed integral with the housing parts adjacent the interior space.

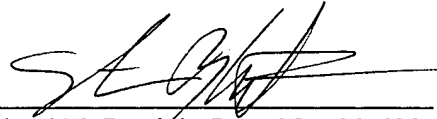
Claim 34 has been amended to clarify the invention. The present invention is a housing for a pump mechanism of a breastpump including a two-piece housing consisting of first and second housing parts which assemble to provide a single interior space adapted to contain pump mechanism components. The pump mechanism components include an electric motor, an eccentric and a pair of pullers, and flexible diaphragms including a first flexible diaphragm connected to a first of the pair of pullers and formed integral with the first housing part and a second flexible diaphragm connected to a second of the pair of pullers and formed integral with the second housing part.

Schall does not anticipate the present claims.

Claims 32, 36 and 39 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Schall in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,508,011 to Nolden ("Nolden"). Schall is distinguished above and further does not teach or suggest noise reduction materials or a need for sound reduction. Nolden is cited by the Examiner in combination with Schall, but Nolden does not supply the deficiencies noted in Schall, nor is there any motivation provided to modify Schall to arrive at the present invention. Therefore, Schall and Nolden cannot render the present claims obvious.

Applicants request reconsideration of pending Claims 32, 34-36 and issuance of a Notice of Allowance. If for any reason the Examiner is unable to allow the case, the Applicants request that the Examiner please contact Applicants' attorney at (312) 673-0360.

Respectfully submitted,



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